THE WOMAN'S
DREADNOUGHT
Published by the WORKERS' SUFFRAGE FEDERATION

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THE TRAFALGAR SQUARE MEETING—OUR VERSION

ANOTHER "EXPRESS" AND "GLOBE" PLOT.

On Sunday, whilst others went direct to the meeting place, the hardiest members of the East London branches of the W.S.F. tramped the six long miles from Bow and Poplar to Trafalgar Square, and all the way the procession was cordially received.

As soon as we reached the end of the Strand we saw that a vast concourse of people had assembled there. *The Times* estimates the crowd at 20,000. Masses of people were lined up on the pavements waiting for us. They clapped and cheered as we marched past; but, just as the speakers reached the plinth, a man whispered to us: "There has been trouble already."

It was true that there had already been the threatening of disorder. Soldiers, the bulk of them Colonials, and a number of civilians, who were recognised as organisers of the disturbances at the Friends' Meeting House and elsewhere, had been waiting in the Square since three o'clock. During the interval two of these civilians had mounted the plinth, calling on the soldiers to prevent the meeting being held, and urging that "the pro-Germans must not be given a hearing." What a negation of the idea of fair play! When sent down by the police these men had harangued the crowd from the ground.

We were not altogether unprepared for demonstrations of hostility, because both the *Daily Express* and the *Globe* had written with great hostility of our meeting, the latter describing it as "open sedition"; but we had left fortune to deal with our meeting as she would, and had made no preparations to resist attack.

THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING.

The resolution we intended to put was as follows:—

That this meeting, recognising the imperative need for complete democratic control in national and international affairs, pledges itself to work for Human Suffrage, namely, a vote for every woman and man of full age.

This meeting further pledges itself to resist the grave infringements of the people's liberties by the Cabinet, which are taking place under the Defence of the Realm Act, Munitions' Act, and Military Service (No. 2) Act.

The speakers were to be:—

Mrs. Bouvier, Mrs. Davies, Mrs. Drake, Mr. Harry Dubery, Miss Gore Booth, Mr. Hann, Miss Manicom, Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Dr. Barbara Tchaykovsky, Mrs. Walker, and Councillor Taylor, of Glasgow, who was to deal specially with the Clyde strike.

BANNERS DESTROYED.

As soon as the speakers mounted the plinth loud cheers, mingled with some hooting, were raised on the Strand side, the hostile section, mainly composed of soldiers, being in a distinct minority there. In front of the plinth, facing the National Gallery, a solid mass of soldiers had assembled, civilians being seen only on the outskirts. These soldiers were shouting vigorously and waving their arms. The banners of the processionists were seen coming round towards this National Gallery side, having taken a circular course round the column. Soldiers and some civilians snatched at the banners, and many of them were destroyed, especially the little flags on thin bamboo poles, which were easily snapped. *The Times* says that anger was caused by a banner inscribed: "Coercion is not government." Of course, *The Times* is a coercionist newspaper.

The soldiers were making so much noise on the National Gallery side that the speakers decided to concentrate on the Strand side. Miss Sylvia Pankhurst opened the proceedings, and for a few moments those nearest could hear what she said, in spite of the fact that some of her audience were shouting at the top of their voices. The soldiers from the National Gallery side at once began to rush round to the Strand plinth, and balls of paper containing red and yellow ochre were hurled from the National Gallery side. The missiles came crossways over the lions' backs to the Strand plinth. Many of them struck the reporters who came forward to hear what Miss Pankhurst was saying. One packet of red ochre struck Mrs. Drake's eleven-year-old daughter full in the eyes, whereat the disturbers raised a cheer.

The people who stood on the ground closest to the Strand plinth received more of the powder than those above, and they stepped back to escape the red and yellow, and thus made it easier for the disturbers, waving torn bits of red and purple banners, who were pushing round from the sides to get well in front.

SCARCITY OF POLICE.

So few policemen have never been seen in Trafalgar Square at any meeting, at least within recent years.

At every previous demonstration that we have had an army of police has been present, lines of constables have been drawn across various points, and always a row of them has been stationed along each side of the plinth. On Sunday last only six policemen at most were to be seen at the foot of the plinth on the Strand side at any time. A man climbed on the plinth, and, coming round from behind them, dusted ochre over the little crowd of women on the plinth. He was taken away by one of the policemen.

A tall man, wearing a khaki armlet, who was throwing ochre, was taken out of the crowd by two other constables, so that only three policemen remained.

THE PLINTH STORMED.

One of the soldiers began to climb on to the plinth. Miss Smyth pushed him back. Other soldiers clambered up, and our women stewards tried to stop them, but two of the women were pulled down into the crowd, and dozens of Colonial soldiers swarmed up on to the plinth.

Miss Sylvia Pankhurst asked them why they were doing this. Some of them said, "They say you are paid by the Germans." Others said, "Don't listen to her." But some of them did listen for a few moments, and some of them said that they had been misinformed. In the midst of the conversation some men rushed up, saying: "You are women, go away; go away before you are hurt." Two burly inspectors then seized Miss Pankhurst and compelled her to leave. The other speakers followed.

The plinth was now crowded with soldiers and the civilian organisers of the demonstration. These invaders, as an observer said, "cheered themselves as though they had won the battle of Loos."

SUPPORTERS IN THE CROWD.

Eager sympathisers who had not been able to get near the plinth crowded round the speakers to express their indignation. The police, whose only real achievement had been to prevent the men speakers and a number of men and women members of the W.S.F. from mounting the plinth, now tried to hurry and harry the speakers out of the Square.

Many members of the Federation, wearing their regalia, stayed in the Square selling DREADNOUGHTS and singing "The Red Flag" and the "International." Some of the unmannerly disturbers hustled them, not refraining from roughness towards one who was quite an old lady; but other people encouraged us, and several men and women asked if they might join the Federation. Many applications for membership have since been received from those who were present in the Square.

Flower girls at Charing Cross indignantly scolded the soldiers for breaking up the meeting, and refused to sell them any flowers.

THE "STANDARD" CALLS FOR FIRM HAND.

Next day the *Evening Standard*, a paper always bitterly hostile to any progressive movement, called for the suppression of meetings such as ours, declaring that:

"Promptitude and firmness are of the essence in this matter. It is always fatal to make terms with a treasonable agitation. Concession and forbearance only defeat their own purpose. The malcontents are not conciliated, but take indulgence for fear, and increase their activity, while timid sympathisers, who would take no risks in the face of a resolute attitude on the part of authority, inevitably come forward when it is seen that something may be gained and nothing will be sacrificed by agitation. Already the movement has attained far more formidable dimensions than would have been the case had the Government crushed it decisively at its first appearance. There may be very serious trouble indeed if we are to have a repetition in war-time of the weakness shown two years ago over the Suffragist campaign.

"These people make no secret of their intentions to defeat the Military Service Bill and to compel premature peace negotiations with Germany. This is no legitimate exercise of the right of free speech, but simple sedition, calling for the severest measures of repression."

Such protests should show us that even a broken-up demonstration is not without effect, and perhaps may even do more to make people think than one that has passed off without a hitch.

LETTERS OF SYMPATHY.

The following extracts have been taken from amongst the mass of letters that have reached us in regard to the Trafalgar Square meeting:—

Dear Editor,—As a member of the W.S.F., who witnessed the disgraceful scenes at Trafalgar Square this afternoon, may I extend my sympathy to you and your brave comrades who were so shamefully ill-used by the military. The people of these islands can stop right here talking about the way German soldiery treat the women of different nations to their own. Our own soldiers have forgotten, or have not learned, that it is a man's duty to protect a woman. I feel so keenly over the whole matter that I have this evening written to Earl Kitchener, calling his attention to the facts. The Tribunals tell us that "conscience makes cowards of us all." It almost seems as though khaki makes cads of those who don it.

ERNEST EYRES.

* * * * *

Dear Comrades,—I went with my husband and other members from Barking to Trafalgar Square to-day and came away sick at heart. But never mind, comrades, "Cheer up," we women must fight on and on. We have to remind ourselves very often of the words: "They know not what they do," and I think it is as true to-day as when it was first said. What though a hundred be beaten, if the hundred and first wins success! At the end let us be able to say in all humility: We *have done* what we could.

J. AUSTIN.

* * * * *

April 10th, 1916.

"With shame and deep sorrow, I witnessed your meeting in the Square yesterday. I do so hope that you and other ladies with you will try and forgive, and not cease in your good work and self-sacrifice."—S. W. Banton.

* * * * *

Dear Editor,—Yesterday in Trafalgar Square was a taste of the thing we are supposed to be fighting to crush—Prussianism! I began to think what on the man on top of the monument fight for? Well, there's this much consolation—you were attacked because you spoke the truth.

Charles A. Wills.

* * * * *

SOME OF THE MISLED.

William Homewood, a grocer's assistant, who wore a khaki armlet, and James Williams, steward of the Imperial Club, Houton, were fined 10s. and 20s. at Marlborough Street on April 10th for throwing ochre at the speakers in Trafalgar Square.

* * * *

F.C.S.U.

In our issue of last week we inadvertently stated that Mrs. M. E. Davies would speak at the Trafalgar Square meeting as a representative of the F.C.S.U., but as a matter of fact she had agreed to speak as an individual.

EMERGENCY APPEAL FOR EXPENSES OF TRAFALGAR SQUARE MEETING.

The daily Press has been full of accounts of our meeting, which was broken up on Sunday "under the impression, rightly or wrongly, that it was a peace meeting." The Colonial soldiers were on the spot for wrecking purposes, long before the procession arrived amidst cheers from sympathisers.

Of course, we are faced with a deficit of £15 on the expenses, apart from the shattered hope of securing a good collection for the Babies' Milk Fund, all the more necessary now that milk is 6d. a quart; and I feel sure there must have been many sympathisers in the Square anxious, but powerless, to help in the emergency. They may now like to put their sympathy into practice and as a protest against the lack of provision by the authorities in a public place, which is always so well policed when there is no fear whatever of any attempt at a "rag." I shall be glad to acknowledge subscriptions for this special purpose, and also for the Babies' Milk Fund, at Langham House, Harrow.

Also for the next demonstration!

BARBARA TCHAYKOVSKY.

PUBLIC MEETING
CHANDOS HALL
21a MAIDEN LANE, W.C.
SATURDAY, APRIL 15th, at 3 p.m.

Speakers:
Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Mrs. Drake
Mr. John Fletcher and others.

Chair - - - - Mrs. BOUVIER.
ADMISSION FREE.

"The little masterpiece, the home, was woman's creation with the help of man; the greatest masterpiece, the good State, will man create when he takes woman in earnest as his helpmate."
—Selma Lagerlöf.

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DREADNOUGHT
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Vol. III. No. 4 Sat., April 15th, 1916

Bravely and willingly we bear our share of the World's burdens. Why, then, deny us the right to Vote, which would dignify our labour and increase our Power of Service?

"PEACE AND FREEDOM"

Last Sunday's demonstration in Trafalgar Square was not a peace meeting, but we do not wish to shield ourselves from opposition behind that fact, for the Workers' Suffrage Federation, which organised the meeting, and we believe every one of those who were to have spoken, are ardent in the cause of peace. The meeting was broken up mainly by a thoughtless and unheeding mob, who had not read our resolutions and had scarcely any idea of the sort of things we meant to say. But behind the noisy crowd that swarmed around the Nelson Column were the instigators of the disturbance, who are thoroughly conversant with our aims, and who, in their strange clinging to old barbarisms and tyrannies, are always to be found in opposition to every movement for human progress. The propaganda of reaction amongst the privileged and wealthy is reinforced by its appeal to their self-interest. To the masses reaction speaks constantly through the daily and evening Press. But if our speeches are met at times with hostility from those who should be with us; if a meeting is occasionally broken up by those whom we would protect, that is merely a sign that we must be more active amongst the people and must not cease from striving to make them think.

In these days the words "Peace and Freedom" are frequently on the lips of kings and statesmen, and yet we are in the midst of War; and liberty is enchained as she has not been for generations past.

On April 5th, the German Chancellor spoke of peace in the Reichstag; on April 11th, Mr. Asquith made his reply. The statements of these two War leaders are singularly alike.

The Chancellor said:

"We did not want this War, we felt no desire to change our frontiers. When the War broke out against our will we threatened no nation with isolation or with the destruction of her national life. We are fighting for no piece of foreign soil. Shall the nation that gave to the world so many valuable and spiritual gifts, and loved peace more than all others, be changed overnight into barbarians and Huns?"

A thousand paraphrases of these words are to be found amongst the utterances of Mr. Asquith and his colleagues.

The Chancellor insisted that European peace must be guaranteed after the War, by giving to the various races the chance of free evolution along the lines of their mother tongue and national individuality. Our British statesmen are never tired of expressing their love for the small nations. The Chancellor said:

Mr. Asquith speaks of nationalities. If he puts himself into the position of Germany he will realise that she will not deliver into the hands of Russia the nations between the Baltic and the Volhynian swamps, the Poles, Lithuanians, and others who have been freed by Germany from Russia.

We must create real guarantees that Belgium shall never be a Franco-British vassal, used as a military or economic buffer against Germany.

The Chancellor declared that on September 9th he had expressed readiness to enter into peace negotiations, but the Allies had refused even to consider the proposal. Their responsible statesmen had threatened the complete destruction of Germany. Therefore, he said:

"Let us suppose that Mr. Asquith sits down with me at a table to examine the possibilities of peace, and Mr. Asquith begins with a claim for the definite and complete destruction of Prussia's military power. The conversation would be ended almost before it began. To these peace conditions only one answer is left, and this answer our own sword must give."

Mr. Asquith replied that when the Chancellor had said he was ready to consider peace proposals he had said that these must come first from the Allies, and that proposals must be "proper to the dignity and assuring the safety of Germany." Mr. Asquith declared this to mean that the Allies must "assume the attitude of defeat." Then he repeated his old bombastic statement:

"We shall not sheathe the sword until the military domination of Prussia is wholly and finally destroyed."

Mr. Asquith said that this did not mean that Germany would be wiped off the map of Europe, or that her national life would be destroyed or mutilated, but that "on several occasions in the last ten years Germany had given evidence of her intention to dictate to Europe under threat of War." When speaking to French Members of Parliament, Mr. Asquith evidently found it necessary to give an explanation of this phrase which he has refused to give to the British Parliament and people.

But alas, during those ten years of sordid, secret diplomacy, Germany was by no means the only Power that sought to dictate to others under threat of War. Not one of the stronger Powers can truthfully say it has not done it.

Mr. Asquith said that the purpose of the Allies is:

"To pave the way for an international system which will secure the principle of equal rights for all civilised States and the establishment of the principle that international problems must be handled by free negotiation on equal terms between free peoples."

Why, then, are meetings on this subject broken up? Why the Trade War? And when will Mr. Asquith produce proposals embodying this programme and lay them before the other nations as a basis of negotiation?

Mr. Asquith suggested that England is not preparing to enter into a trade war with Germany, but in the House of Lords next day the Marquess of Crewe, speaking on behalf of the Government, replied to Lord Courtney's plea for Free Trade, that German commercial enterprise could not be separated from German militarism, and that "the idea that after the War business could begin again on exactly the old lines cannot be realised."

Insisting that the Allies are the champions of the small nations, Mr. Asquith repudiated Germany's claim to this title, and recalled the cruel banning of the Polish language in the Schools of Prussian Poland. But how miserably false is the claim on either side! Russia forbids the use of their language to the peoples under her yoke with even fiercer rigour than that of Prussia. Moreover, what account shall Great Britain give of our championship of the national aspirations of India, Egypt, and Persia? But we need not leave this country in search of instances—if the British Government has entered into this War for freedom's sake, why has it deported David Kirkwood for striving to force the Government to carry out its pledge that women in munition workshops shall be paid a minimum wage of £1 a week?

It is sad, indeed, that the majority of the workers fail to realise that in the clash of warfare all freedom is disappearing from our land.

Very ominous for the German people was the Chancellor's statement in reference to the economic situation that:

"The German nation is ready in case of real necessity to lower the standard of life."

Our British statesmen put the same thing in another way. They preach economy, but they mean just as the German Chancellor does, that the working people of the country must face the spectre of want to win the War!

And, clothe it as they may in trappings of hate or glory, the War is only a sordid struggle of capitalist enterprise.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

In the German Reichstag, on April 7th, Karl Liebknecht stated that there is in Germany a conflict between the policy of Berlin-to-Bagdad and the policy of annexations in west and east, the interests of rival capitalist groups being involved on either side. He declared that after the War had begun with a battle-cry against Tsarism the aim was soon shifted westward.

The Vice-President intervened protesting that "to say that the War began with the one or the other object is to insult the Government." Eventually, at the suggestion of the Vice-President, the House decided that Liebknecht must discontinue his speech.

EASTER HOLIDAYS

The W.S.F. Day Nursery at the Mothers' Arms, 438, Old Ford Road, will close for the Easter Holidays on Thursday evening, April 20th, and re-open Wednesday morning, April 26th.

We shall be glad to hear from friends who will volunteer to attend at the four centres for serving milk, etc., in order that the regular workers may have a much-needed holiday.

If you go away for Easter, be sure to take a supply of DREADNOUGHTS with you. Whether you stay at home or go away, you will have opportunities of selling the paper and making new members of the Federation. Be sure to use them.

The W.S.F. Offices at 400, Old Ford Road, E., will be closed from mid-day Thursday, April 20th, to Friday, April 28th.

VOTES FOR WOMEN

SHROPSHIRE SUFFRAGISTS.

A meeting of Shropshire Suffragists has passed a resolution calling upon Shropshire Members of Parliament to demand that any Service Franchise Bill shall be so framed as to enfranchise women; and meanwhile, themselves, to frame, introduce, and press a separate Woman Suffrage Bill.

Whilst welcoming the re-awakening of interest in Women's Enfranchisement amongst many who, at the commencement of the War discontinued their work for suffrage, we do not believe that resolutions such as this attack the problem before suffragists in the best and most practical way. We believe that it is best to demand human suffrage—namely, a vote for every woman and man of full age.

* * * *

The Free Church League for Women's Suffrage has passed a resolution calling on the Government: "to introduce without delay a measure for the enfranchisement of women which would enable them to play their fitting part in the social re-construction which all see to be inevitable."

* * * *

WOMEN AS COUNCILLORS OF STATE

A NORWEGIAN VICTORY.

A Reuter telegram from Christiania states that the Norwegian Storthing has agreed, by 91 votes against 14, to an amendment of paragraph 1,250 of the Fundamental Laws, thereby enabling women to be appointed members of the Council of State.

* * * *

VOTES FOR SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN

A letter from the Hon. Secretary of the Women's Enfranchisement League of Johannesburg, points out that in our issue of February 5th we stated that the South African women had won the municipal vote in the previous November. This information we copied from the Press. The Hon. Secretary states that a proportion of women were already exercising the municipal franchise on a property basis prior to the recent extension, which was secured by the Labour Party, and which extended the municipal franchise to all women over 21 on a three months' residential qualification.

At the same time we learn that four women were elected to the Town Council, three of whom are members of the Women's Enfranchisement League. Our congratulations to the W.E.L. on the result of this first election.

* * * *

WOMEN NOT TO LAND WITHOUT PERMISSION

We must protest against the following extraordinary order by the Army Council:—

"The Secretary of State for India and the Army Council have thought it advisable to approve a proposal of the Government of India that ladies should not be allowed to land at Aden without the permission of the Commander-in-Chief in India."

The record of the Army Council in regard to India is a very black one, and we want to know what this latest order means. We shall probably be told that it is in order to protect women from some supposed danger. But in view of official records we are more inclined to believe the object of this is to prevent women from learning something of which they may have reason to disapprove.

* * * *

SYMPATHY STRIKE.

Attempts are being, and will constantly be made, to divide the united front of the workers by setting the men against the women and the women against the men. We welcome the fact that when the men employed by the South Metropolitan Tramway Company came out on strike on April 8th, the women who are being employed as conductors came out with them. It is being said that the strike is against the employment of women, but even the company's manager admits that it is "more a question of wages."

We understand that the manager has threatened that the case of motormen for whom exemption has been claimed at the Tribunals, will not be proceeded with unless they return to work.

* * * *

We are asked to state that Mrs. Mansell-Moullin has resigned from the Hon. Secretaryship of the F.C.S.U. owing to illness and imperative doctor's orders for complete rest for some time to come. Readers of the DREADNOUGHT will regret to learn of Mrs. Mansell-Moullin's illness.

Mrs. Clara Cole has been arrested for displaying a stop-the-war poster in Trafalgar Square.

THE GREAT PEACE DEMONSTRATION
will be held in
TRAFALGAR SQUARE
On EASTER SUNDAY, April 23rd, at 3.30 p.m.

If ALL the London Members of the organisations taking part rally to its support, the Demonstration cannot fail to be a success
The Patriots' Motto: STOP THE WAR.

PARLIAMENT

AS WE SEE IT.

April 4th.—Mr. Tennant stated that a soldier who is unlikely to be again fit for military service is retained in the military hospital as a free patient after discharge from the Army, should he require further treatment.

How is it, then, that so many cases of ill soldiers with insufficient pensions come to our notice?

* * * *

The recent speech of Mr. Miliukoff in the Russian Duma maintaining that "Russia's sole War problem was an outlet to the sea," and that an agreement had been reached by the Allies as to the future of Constantinople was referred to by Mr. Outhwaite. Sir E. Grey made an evasive reply, which clearly shows that Mr. Miliukoff was fully authorised to make these statements.

What about the protection of the rights and liberties of the weaker nations?

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Mr. Forster said that soldiers suffering from tuberculosis "are not sent to their homes when discharged from the Army."

Our experience proves that they ARE sent to their homes, and, what is worse, without any means to live on!

* * * *

With reference to indentured labour in India, Mr. Chamberlain said it has been decided to abolish it "after time has been allowed for framing and bringing into force an alternative system."

This does not promise much; "time" is such a vague expression!

* * * *

Mr. Lewis Haslam inquired whether steps had been taken to issue Regulations limiting the hours of workers in controlled establishments?

Mr. Lloyd George replied that no special instructions regulating the hours of male adult workers have been issued by the Ministry of Munitions, but steps are being taken to reduce Sunday labour and to secure adequate rest periods.

We know how the Ministry of Munitions has acted with reference to women workers, despite the recommendations of the Health of Munition Workers Committee. Output is all that is thought of, health is of secondary importance, and the result is that even output suffers.

* * * *

April 5th.—Mr. W. Thorne demanded that a "searching inquiry should be made into the past and present activities of Mr. E. D. Morel, with a view to establishing his connection with the enemy or proving his *bona fides*."

Mr. Dillon deplored the fact that the Notice Paper of the House of Commons should be used to circulate "abominable charges" against men who are not in a position to defend themselves in the House.

The Secretary of State remarked that he had no information.

Character is evidently of small importance to some "honourable" members!

* * *

An investigation into the recent Singalese disturbances and the memorial signed by them was asked for by Mr. Anderson, but Mr. Bonar Law was "satisfied" that "further inquiry would serve no useful purpose."

When there is a question of doing justice to oppressed people, excuses are very convenient—yet we are supposed to be the "liberators of the oppressed"!

* * *

April 6th.—In reply to Mr. Hogge, Mr. Asquith said there is "not sufficient ground" for receiving a deputation of widows who wish to plead the case of their only sons.

The "married men" are received by the Prime Minister, Lord Derby, and anyone else they demand to see; but, again, women are of no importance, despite the "pledges" made to *them*. We may take this as an illustration of the power of the vote and of the Conscriptionist Press.

* * *

Referring to the women munitioneers at Erith, Dr. Addison said they were not medically examined prior to the change from eight-hour shift to twelve-hour shift, and, according to Mr. Anderson, they were not even consulted, and the result is that forty of the women have asked for certificates of discharge.

It would seem that the Clyde workers are none too soon in demanding control of the workshops by the workers when the Ministry of Munitions makes such thoughtless and injurious changes.

* * *

April 10th.—The futility of the Coal Act was shown by Mr. Thomas' statement that at Port Talbot coal cannot be obtained for domestic purposes, though large quantities are lying at the docks for shipment.

The Act limits the price of coal for home consumption; but coal exported does not come under the Act—hence the refusal of coal owners to sell to merchants.

Mr. Pretyman suggested "drastic economy" in the use of coal for household purposes, or in extreme cases an appeal to the Board of Trade.

Why not amend the Act, as Sir A. Markham, himself a coal owner, suggested some time ago?

* * *

Sir C. Kinloch-Cooke asked what action was being taken with regard to Lance-Corporal P. Mahone, who is seriously ill from gas poisoning. Mr. Tennant was quite unconcerned when he replied that no pension could be granted him since he was suffering from tubercle of the lung not attributable to military service. Yet he was passed into the Army as fit!

* * * *

The Prime Minister stated in reply to Mr. Snowden that Mr. Hughes was going to the Paris Conference as one of the representatives of the Imperial Government.

Mr. Hughes' policy is repudiated by every Labour organ in Australia, and his Government is losing every by-election. This is a man who represents the people's will.

* * * *

Mr. Rowlands stated that Ellen Jane Clark, employed by the Palmer Tyre Works, Silvertown, died of dope poisoning. That this firm's hours are from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., except Saturday, when they are 6 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Mr. Brace admitted the facts; but went on to say that no girl will be employed on doping more than two half-days per week.

The poisonous dope question has now been going on for a long time, the only remedy seems to lie in the workers refusing to use it.

SUNDAY MEETING

POPLAR WOMEN'S HALL

20 RAILWAY STREET.

APRIL 16th at 7.30 p.m.

***Speakers*: Mrs. Hobhouse and Mr. John Fletcher.**

"The Peace Movement in Australia and New Zealand"

***Chair*: Mrs. DRAKE**

Recitations: MISS DOROTHY MATTHEWS.

Admission 2d.

A WAR TRAGEDY

The following case is an example of the scandalous delay which frequently takes place before pensions are granted to disabled soldiers, and the appalling inadequacy of the pensions which are at length obtained:—

Private F—— C——, A.S.C., who, before the War, was a motor driver, was discharged from the Army on February 26th, 1915, suffering from shattered nerves. He has a wife whose eyesight is so bad that she has difficulty in getting about, a step-child of seven years, and a baby boy was born two months after the soldier's discharge.

Mrs. C—— made various efforts to obtain a pension for her husband, and at last applied to us. We wrote to the authorities on her behalf on December 7th, 1915. After several applications from us, Chelsea Hospital promised, on February 2nd, 1916, to grant a pension of 12s. 6d. a week "for six months conditional." We wrote to point out that a man suffering from shattered nerves, with a wife and two children, could not subsist on so small a pension; but the reply was that the soldier was not considered to be entirely disabled, and that allowance could not be granted on account of the girl aged seven, because she was a child of the soldier's wife by a former marriage, or on behalf of the baby, because he was born two months after his father's discharge.

In the meantime, Mr. C—— tried to obtain work, but the state of his nerves made it impossible to retain employment of any kind. He was twice summoned on account of his driving, and, of course, immediately lost his work. Owing to the state of his nerves he cannot control himself; he becomes terribly excited, and, although this is in no sense his fault, he has caused his wife and children much suffering. In order to make a little money, his wife took in washing, but he declared that he could not bear it, and that the washing must be cleared away. A child's crying or other noise drives him frantic; on the occasion of one of the Zeppelin scares he terrified his wife and children so much that the baby became ill, and had to be taken to the hospital, where it died. The doctor said that the distress of the mother, who was suckling her child, caused the baby's illness. The little girl is also ill in hospital owing to fright and lack of nourishment. The Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children has threatened to prosecute the father; but his behaviour is due to his illness, and he is, of course, morally innocent.

All this time appeals have been made to Chelsea Hospital to increase the allowance. It is urgently necessary that this poor man should be taken away to be cared for, and that an adequate allowance should be paid to the wife and child. If this is not done something serious will certainly occur.

When the question of allowances and pensions was last raised in the House of Commons, Mr. Forster stated on behalf of the War Office that 15,105 men had been invalided out of the Army without pensions. Of the remaining 35,000 who have been discharged, how many have received the 25s. a week and 2s. 6d. a week for each child that was promised?

THE POLITICAL TRUCE

"I say here and now, and with a full sense of responsibility, that if the political truce is to be broken in the interests of one set of politicians, if the unity of the nation is to be broken to satisfy certain individuals, then so far as the railwaymen are concerned we shall see that there is no further need for the industrial truce. In other words, we are not going to stand by and allow these people to trample under foot every liberty that the working classes enjoy."—Mr. J. H. Thomas, M.P., to a meeting of South-Eastern Railwaymen in Southwark Park, April 9th.

But what is Mr. Thomas waiting for?

* * * *

A correspondent writes that some of the men who have been elected by their comrades as shop stewards in place of the deportees have been dismissed by the employers, and it is believed that this is being done to make men afraid to become shop stewards, and thus break down the old custom.

* * * *

According to Mr. Anderson, the shop stewards deported without trial from Glasgow have been offered a free journey, together with their families, to San Francisco.

On Tuesday evening, April 11th, an "At Home" to meet Councillor Taylor was held at the Women's Hall, 400, Old Ford Road. Councillor Taylor gave a most interesting address on the Clyde position, in the course of which he explained that the trouble had arisen because David Kirkwood was prevented from going into the workshops where the women were employed. The women were being paid less than the statutory minimum wage of £1 a week, for which breach of the regulation Sir William Beardmore, the owner of Parkhead Forge, was, of course, liable to a fine.

After Kirkwood's deportation the women, without making application for it, were each handed 5s. or so in addition to the wage that they had hitherto been receiving.

WORKERS' SUFFRAGE FEDERATION

GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY, 17th APRIL, at 8 p.m.

Women's Hall, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

N.C.F. CONVENTION

A Convention, which the *Manchester Guardian* described as having "recalled one of those high-pulsed suffrage demonstrations of old days," was held by the No-Conscription Fellowship at Devonshire House, Bishopsgate, on Saturday, April 8.

Greetings were read from fifteen members of the Fellowship who are already in the hands of the military authorities. One of these had refused to obey every order of the military authorities, had been court-martialed, and sentenced to six months in a military prison with hard labour. He wrote that the discipline was severe, and that there was much dangerous coaxing to give way. It took the strongest determination to withstand these things, but they could be withstood.

Mr. Clifford Allen took the chair. He said that in the eyes of the law to-day men were but creatures to be examined, weighed and measured to see if they were fit for the work of slaughter. Some people urged that it is better to submit to any loss of liberty than to run the risk of allowing an alien militarism to conquer us; but the greatest tragedy of the time was the fear on the part of one nation of its neighbour's Army, and on the part of the other of its neighbour's Navy. This led to the piling up of armaments in a vicious circle. It was the mission of the conscientious objector to break that vicious circle.

The married members of the N.C.F. were determined not to let the unmarried members starve, and many distinguished men who were not themselves conscientious objectors were prepared to take the so-called deserters into their homes, because they considered that the conscience clauses in the Act were being violated by the officials. The alternative of the conscientious objector to conscription was not the voluntary system, but peace negotiations. The N.C.F. could not accept non-combatant service, which would assist in the prosecution of the War. When offered alternative service conscientious objectors would ask why the Government should seek to transfer them from one service to another. Many of them were giving their whole lives to peace agitation, and that was the only alternative service they were prepared to accept. Would the Board of Trade accept that as approved national service?

Mr. Philip Snowden, M.P., referred to the Clergy as "a class who, being apparently without conscience, had had one specially provided by Act of Parliament." Never since the days of Judge Jefferies and the bloody assize had such a travesty of justice been seen as that perpetrated by the Military Service Tribunals. There was not an illegality which it was possible to commit of which they had not been guilty. They had treated Mr. Walter Long with no more respect than if he had been an office boy and his regulations as scraps of waste paper. The Appeal Courts had acted even more illegally than the Local Tribunals. Every case that had come before them should be suspended for impartial inquiry.

Mr. R. O. Meynell, of the Friends' Ambulance Corps, declared that conscientious objectors would find their testimony obscured if they accepted anything but absolute exemption. It was said that the pacifist ideal was unpractical, but it was only so because nations yet lacked the courage to try it. "Courage seems a strange word in our mouths," he said. "We are the cowards. Do not let that taunt dismay you—put up the sword!"

Sir John Barlow, M.P., Dr. Clifford, and Mrs. Swanwick and Mr. George Lansbury also spoke.

Early in the proceedings a warning cry was heard, the stewards passed out of the hall, windows were closed, and at the request of a member of the audience applause ceased, enthusiasm being expressed only by the waving of handkerchiefs and the audience rising to its feet. Eventually it transpired that a crowd of thirty or forty persons, well known as disturbers of meetings, had assembled outside the gates leading to the hall, and had thrown flour through the bars. Two sailors had climbed over the gates, and the stewards had made friends with them. Two civilian men had climbed over the gates and the soldiers had begun fighting with the newcomers, the stewards had separated them, and eventually the intruders had left. Meanwhile the police had "moved on" the crowd outside.

The Convention, by a large majority, refused to accept any form of alternative service, and demanded absolute exemption.

When Major Rothschild, at the Guildhall section of the London Appeal Tribunal, told Mr. Whitelock, a Socialist objector, that he could understand a conscientious objector on religious grounds, Mr. George Lansbury said:—

"Shame on you, Rothschild! Herbert Samuel said that a moral objection is as good as a religious objection. You ought to be ashamed of yourself."

Exemption was granted conditional on applicant undertaking work of national importance.

* * *

Mr. Clifford Allen, Chairman of the No-Conscription Fellowship, was granted exemption on condition that he engaged in work of national importance. He refused to accept this decision, and the Chairman (Sir C. Johnston) said that unless he abided by it within a month the exemption would be rendered void.

THE
WORKERS' SUFFRAGE FEDERATION

To secure Human Suffrage, namely, a Vote for every Woman and Man of full age, and to win Social and Economic Freedom for the People.

Entrance Fee ... ... *1d.*
Subscription... ... ... *1d. a month*

EAST LONDON MEETINGS.

FRIDAY, APRIL 14th.
Grundy Street, 11 a.m., Mrs. Bouvier, Mrs. Drake.
Poplar Women's Hall, 3 p.m., Mrs. Gregory, Mrs. Drake.
Beckton Road, 7 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier.
Bow Women's Hall, 8 p.m., Debate, Mr. S. Franklin.
SATURDAY, APRIL 15th.
Well Street and Morning Lane, 11 a.m., Mrs. Bouvier, Miss Stephen.
Vernon Road, 11.30 a.m., Miss Lynch.
Chandos Hall, 3 p.m., Public Meeting.
SUNDAY, APRIL 16th.
Osborne Street, 11.30 a.m., Miss Somers, Miss Lynch.
Mare Street and Well Street, 11.30 a.m., Mrs. Cressall, Miss Stephen.
Stratford Broadway 12 (noon), Joint Meeting with N.C.F., Mrs. Bouvier.
Victoria Park, 3 p.m., Mr. Bracher, Miss Stephen.
Poplar Women's Hall, 7.30 p.m., Mrs. Hobhouse, Mr. John Fletcher, chair, Mrs. Drake.
MONDAY, APRIL 17th.
Bow Women's Hall, 3 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier, Miss Lynch.
"Peacock," 7 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier, Miss Beamish.
53 St. Leonard's Street, 7.30 p.m., Mrs. Cressall.
TUESDAY, APRIL 18th.
Copenhagen Place, 11 a.m., Mrs. Bouvier, Mrs. Drake.
Poplar Women's Hall, 8 p.m., Mrs. Drake.
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19th.
Chrisp Street, 6.30 p.m., Mrs. Drake.
THURSDAY, APRIL 20th.
55 Fife Road, 3.30 p.m., Miss Lynch, Mrs. Parsons.

* * * *

BOW.
Women's Hall, 400 Old Ford Road.
Secretary: Miss Lynch.

The first DREADNOUGHT Social held at Bow on Saturday, the 8th inst., was a great success. Those who helped with singing, playing, selling tickets, etc., are thanked very much. We hope they will all help with the next. Mrs. Pascoe and Miss Mackay have been elected to the Committee as representatives for Bow Branch. Good meetings were held at Morpeth Street, Hague Street, and Osborne Street during the week-end. A good number of Bow members turned up at Headquarters for the Procession. It is hoped they will all have regalias next time. Members' subscriptions, £1 os. 9d. Collections at open-air meetings, 2s. 6½d. DREADNOUGHT sales week ending April 8th, 931. Miss Lynch, 269; Miss O'Brien, 200; Mrs. Holloway, 171; Miss Smyth, 68; Mrs. Savoy, 48; Miss Gore-Brown, 25; general sales, 150. This is the second week our Bow sales have fallen below a thousand, a thing that had not happened for a very long time before. We must try to make our sales grow steadily.
Bromley—145.

POPLAR.
20 Railway Street.
Secretary: Mrs. Drake.

Miss Feek was our speaker on Tuesday evening, and on Friday afternoon Miss S. Pankhurst came. In future the work of the branch will be done on Wednesday evening, when the club is held, and we shall have an open-air meeting on Tuesday evening instead of the one indoors.

On Wednesday evening, also, we shall be attending to the garden here, and should be obliged by the loan of shovels and garden forks, or anything else that would be useful.

Excellent open-air meetings have been held, and at the Demonstration in the Square a large number of DREADNOUGHTS were sold by our members, and they are congratulated on the way in which they stood by their banners.

Collections—Miss K. Lagsding and D. Morley, 11s. 6½d.; Mrs. Drake, 10s. 7d.; Miss E. Lagsding, 5s. 0½d.

DREADNOUGHTS sold week ending April 8th, 566, which is a great improvement. Mrs. Shlette, 60; Miss T. Barker, 33; Miss P. Lagsding, 33. Total at Square, 189.

HACKNEY.
40 Glaskin Road.
Secretary: Miss Stephen.

Meeting held as usual on Thursday. We hope members will come to our meetings in greater numbers. We continue to make good progress, several new members joining last week. Should like also to see more members and sympathisers at our outdoor meetings in Well Street.

DREADNOUGHT sales for week ending April 8th, 82.

BIRMINGHAM.
Hon. Secretary: Miss Boden, 8 Richmond Road, Bearwood.

Birmingham has now a strong branch, and we are expecting great things from it. Members have decided to get their DREADNOUGHTS through their local newsagents and to see that the newsagents show posters. Every member is going to try to get a new subscriber each week in order that the circulation may grow by leaps and bounds. Special donations have been received as follows:—Mrs. Cann, 1s.; Mrs. Ives, 2s. 6d.; Mrs. Ward, 11d. Branch meetings are held on Wednesday evenings; particulars from the Hon. Secretary. An excellent meeting was held in the Bull Ring on Wednesday, 5th April. The branch is very sorry that Mrs. Boyce has had to leave them to go on to Newcastle, and the members presented her with a fountain pen, as a remembrance of the time she had spent with them.

A branch of the League of Rights for soldiers' and sailors' wives and relatives is to be formed.

NEWCASTLE.

Mrs. Boyce will be in Newcastle till after Easter. Her address is c/o Mrs. Hutty, Athena Cottage, Delavel Gardens, Benwell, Newcastle. On leaving Newcastle she will go north to Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee, etc. We shall be glad to hear from friends who will help to arrange meetings, etc.

A MODEL LAUNDRY.—Family work a speciality. Dainty fabrics of every description treated with special care. Flannels and silks washed in distilled water. No chemicals used. Best labour only employed. Prompt collection; prompt delivery.—Bullens, Cressy House Laundry, Reynolds Road, Acton Green, W.

THE CLYDE DEPORTEES MUST COME BACK.

By COUNCILLOR DOLLAN.

The industrial situation on the Clyde has been transformed since I penned the notes for the last issue of the WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT. All the men who were on strike have returned to work on the understanding that their grievances, including the deportation of their comrades, will be impartially investigated and redressed, and in the interests of industrial and national harmony, the grievances should be redressed without delay. The redress of the grievances which led to the recent strikes will not produce a new industrial spirit on the Clyde; that can only be produced by the abolition of profiteering in the production of munitions and the admission of the trade unions into co-partnership with the State in the control of industry. Profiteering and autocratic management are the main causes of industrial unrest on the Clyde.

Although the strikers have gone back to their War toil it must not be inferred from that that their rebellious spirit has been broken by the repression of the Government and the terrorist threats of the mob-press. The Government would require to banish some 20,000 men before the Clyde area could be cleared of industrial agitations, and even then there would be others ready and willing to take the vacant places, not to mention those women whose life is glorified by agitation. Deportation will not remove the agitation which the authorities dislike; but the return of the ten shop stewards who have been deported would help to modify the agitation and make it more amenable to present conditions. The rebels left behind are feeling rather sore that their comparative liberty should be obtained at the price of the deportation of their ten comrades, and can be relied upon to do everything possible to secure the same amount of liberty for their comrades temporarily exiled.

Fortunately the authorities are now recognising that the deportation of the ten shop stewards without legal charge or warrant was an action which cannot be justified by constitutional law, and negotiations have been opened between the Commissioners on Dilution and the A.S.E. District Committee with a view to inquiring into all the circumstances of the recent strike and the subsequent deportations. The Commissioners met two of the deportees in Edinburgh on Tuesday, and, while I have no knowledge of what transpired at the interview, I feel sure that the deportees made it clear that their return to liberty must be unconditional. David Kirkwood and Sam Shields were the two men who met the Commissioners, and those who know them will understand there was no cringing or appealing in their utterances. The deportees are as true as steel, and they will not be broken. True men cannot be broken, and our deportees will comfort themselves with the dignity which is their natural possession as workmen. Pending the result of the inquiry, the deportees ought to be set at liberty, as it is criminal that men against whom no charge has been levelled should be banished from their homes and friends in order to appease Mr. George's appetite for authority. If the deportees have broken the law, let them be brought to trial; if they have not broken the law let them be free.

Tommy Clark, the treasurer of the Clyde Workers' Committee and an A.S.E. shop steward at Parkhead, was the last man to be removed by force, and he has joined his three comrades, Bridges, Glass, and Kennedy, at Aberdeen. The deportation of Clark was kept secret and the names of the exiles have not been published in the servile press. The other six deportees are in Edinburgh, and Edinburgh never housed such worthy men before. Their names are: Kirkwood, Messer, McManus, Shields, Haggarty, and Wainwright, and the comrades in Edinburgh have welcomed them with open arms, and they have been made to feel honoured guests.

All of the ten deportees are men worth knowing and are citizens of the first line. Better workmen have not worn shoe leather, and Glasgow should be proud of them. Most of them are Socialists, and readers of the WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT will be glad to learn that all the ten are keen advocates of economic equality between men and women, and have been active in improving the wages and conditions of women workers. It was Kirkwood who, when challenged by Sir Wm. Beardmore as to his right in making a speech urging women to demand men's rates for men's work, said:—

"My right is the right of the strong to protect the weak: the right of a man to help his sisters."

What is true of Kirkwood is true of the others, and the women workers of Glasgow have no better friends than the ten deportees. It was Kirkwood and his comrade shop stewards who won the agreement establishing economic equality for women brought in under dilution to do work formerly done by men at Parkhead. They have been of great assistance in organising women, and the dispute which culminated in their deportation originated at Parkhead as a consequence of the management refusing the shop stewards access to a department where it was alleged the women workers were not receiving the agreed upon rates of pay. Therefore, it will be seen that the deportation of the shop stewards was mainly due to their activity on behalf of women workers, and accordingly it behoves all women reformers to join in with the trade unionists and Socialists who are demanding the unconditional return of the deportees.

The allegations made by unscrupulous politicians that the Clyde strikes were motived by anti-War desires are baseless, as it is obvious that if the authorities had any proof of the allegation they could soon bring those responsible to the courts for trial and punishment. That the authorities have not adopted legal methods proves they have no case, and that the deportees are innocent of the allegations made by George and Addison and their press buglers. There are effective means of dealing with those who are alleged to be treasonable or seditious, and it is up to the politicians to prove their statements. They know they cannot prove them, but the cowards have not the decency to apologise for the slanders they have committed on men better than themselves. Like the raid on *Forward*, the deportations will not be justified at law.

Apart from the deportation of the ten shop stewards the employers at certain establishments have taken to victimising shop stewards who have in any way identified themselves with the rebel movement. This policy of victimisation can only lead to more trouble, as it is unlikely the workmen will allow comrades to be dismissed from their occupation because they have carried out the duties entrusted to them by the men who appointed them to act as shop stewards. This sort of thing cannot be tolerated, and the authorities should intervene and prevent employers from victimising shop stewards. If the authorities do not intervene trouble may arise.

Donations to be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, Dr. Tchaykovsky, Langham House, Harrow, or Hon. Financial Secretary, Miss N. L. Smyth, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.
All parcels to 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

MOTHERS AND BABIES.

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Day nursery from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Doctor's consultation and baby-weighing, Mondays, 2.30 p.m. Mothers and babies can consult Nurse at any time.

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53 ST. LEONARD'S STREET, BROMLEY-BY-BOW.

Doctor's consultation and baby-weighing, Tuesdays, 2 p.m.

55 FIFE ROAD, CANNING TOWN.

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All mothers and children are welcome.

COST PRICE RESTAURANTS at 400 Old Ford Road, and 20 Railway Street. Dinners from 12 till 2 p.m. daily.

WANTS.

Subscriptions to the milk and food fund. Doctoring and nursing can help little if mothers and children are unable to obtain the nourishment that is ordered.

New laid eggs, barley, glaxo, virol, for invalids. Medicine bottles, clothing and shoes for adults and boys and girls of all ages.

For baby, four gowns, four barrows, two flannel bands, twelve napkins, three vests, and a cot blanket; for mother, two nightgowns, woollen shawl, three towels, two sheets, and a pair of pillow cases.

Growing plants and cut flowers for all our centres. We should be grateful to friends who would supply us regularly during the spring and summer. We also need vegetables and fruit.

More cupboards are needed at all our centres.

Nurse needs empty medicine bottles at her dispensary.

GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED.

GENERAL FUND.—The Misses Gliksten, £1 (monthly); Rathmell Wilson, Esq., 14s. 7d.; Miss Gore Brown, 7s. (monthly); M.T.G. 3031915 (2 weeks), 10s.; Miss S. C. Brown, 10s.; Miss E. Lowy, 5s. (monthly); Mrs. Goulden, 5s.; Mrs. Usherwood (monthly) 5s.; Mr. E. Jenkins, 5s.; Mrs. Glassmann, 2s.; Mr. George Banton, 1s. 5d. (donation Trafalgar Sq.); Anon, per Miss S. Pankhurst, 1s.

"DREADNOUGHT" FUND.—A. S. Coombes, Esq., 10s. 6d.; Mrs. Phyllis Bell, 10s.; Mrs. H. M. Thewlis, 4s. 6d.

GENERAL DISTRESS.—"In loving memory of Elsie Grant (Michaelson), 7th April, 1885—2nd March, 1916, from Alice Singer," £10; Mrs. Douglas Haig, £5; Miss I. V. Yeoman (10s. weekly), £2; Mrs. Monck Mason, £1 1s.; Miss Lilian Wald, £1; Mrs. Burton, £1; Mrs. Butcher (monthly), 15s. 3d.; Mrs. Groves and Miss K. L., 11s. 2½d.; A. S. Coombes, Esq., 10s. 6d.; Mrs. Richmond (fortnightly), 10s.; Mrs. Beatty, 10s.; per Mrs. Drake, 6s. 9d.; Miss E. Lagsding, 5s. 10½d.; Miss E. Athorne (through "Herald"), 5s; The Misses Saunderson and Bellamy (monthly), 5s.; Mrs. E. M. Morris (monthly), 5s.; Mrs. Heywood Bright (weekly), 5s.; A. W., 5s.; Mrs. Empson (monthly), 5s.; Rev. T. Gore Brown, 4s. (monthly).

COLLECTIONS.—Children of Hazelwood School, per Mrs. Goulden, £1 10s.; I.L.S.A. Toolroom, £1 9s. 2½d.; Ilford N.C.F. Meeting, per Mr. Halfpenny, 15s. 4d.; Mrs. Gow, 6s. 10½d.; Mrs. Walsh, 6s.; collected in "Babies' House," 5s. 2d.; Open-air Meetings, 4s. 6½d.; Miss Lynch, 2s. 6½d.; per Mrs. Drake, 2s. 9d.; Victoria Park, Sunday, per Miss Greer, 1s. 7½d.; Rev. C. A. Wills, 8d.

SELF-DENIAL.—Mrs. Swan, 15s.; Miss Ellis, 10s.; Miss Helsby, 5s.; Miss Barry, 3s.

CLOTHING, ETC.—Mrs. Davey and Mrs. Drane, Miss Morgan Jones.

FLOWERS.—Mrs. Crosland Taylor, Mrs. Saxby.

EGGS.—Mrs. Crosland Taylor.

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